

Serial No.: 09/718,583
Attorney Docket No.: 10005173-1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing an automated login for a user connecting to a server, wherein the server comprises a first server of a plurality of servers that are connected via a computer network, the method comprising steps of:
 - receiving a connection to the user via a client data terminal;
 - accessing the first server by the user after being authenticated;
 - selecting from the first web server a computer input mark to a second web server and assigning a first identifier and an underlying second identifier associated with the first web server of the input mark; and
 - authenticating, without the use of a cookie, the user and the first web server based on the first and second identifiers and allowing access to the second web server without requesting a cookie from the client if both identifiers are authenticated to eliminate the need for the user to provide separate login information when connecting to the second server via the input mark and the use of cookies.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second identifier comprises a provider identifier associated with the second server and the first identifier comprises a personal identifier assigned to the user by the second server.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of authenticating the user comprises a step of allowing a user access to a service provided by the first server after an initial registration by the user.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of receiving a connection comprises a step of receiving a second connection to a user via a client data terminal, wherein the step of selecting from the first web server a computer input mark comprises a step of receiving, during the second connection, a provider identifier

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associated with a second server of the plurality of servers and a step of receiving, during the second connection, a personal identifier assigned to the user by the second server, and further comprising steps of:

- receiving a first connection to the user via a client data terminal, wherein the first connection is first in time relative to the second connection;

- receiving, during the first connection, an identifier associated with the second server;

- receiving registration information from the user;

- storing the identifier and the registration information; and

- wherein the step of authenticating the user comprises a step of matching the stored identifier with the identifier received during the second connection.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the identifier received during the first connection and the identifier received during the second connection each comprises a provider identifier associated with a second server and a personal identifier assigned to the user by the second server.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of storing comprises steps of:

- creating a user profile; and

- storing the identifier and the registration information in the user profile.

7. (original) The method of claim 4, further including steps of:

- requesting, during the first connection, a consent of the user to use the identifier associated with the second server; and
- receiving the requested consent.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the registration information comprises at least one of a user name, user post office address, user telephone number, and user electronic mail address.

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9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of assigning, by the first server and during a first connection, a personal identifier to the user.

10. (currently amended) A method for providing an automated login for a user logging onto a host web site, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a connection to a user via an affiliated web site;

accessing the first server by the user after being authenticated;

selecting from the host web site a computer input mark having a hyperlink to a second web site and assigning a personal identifier and an underlying provider identifier associated with the host web site of the input mark; and

allowing the user access to the host web site, without requesting a cookie from the user, based on the received identifier if both identifiers are authenticated to eliminate the need for the user to provide separate login information when connecting to the second web site via the hyperlink of the input mark and without the use of a cookie.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the personal identifier is provided to the second web site via a transparent login process after the user disconnects and then later reconnects to the second web site.

12. (previously presented) The method of step 10, wherein the step of receiving a connection comprises a step of receiving a second connection of a user via an affiliated web site, wherein the step of selecting from the host web site a computer input mark comprises a step of receiving, during the second connection, an identifier associated with the affiliated web site, and further comprising steps of:

receiving a first connection of the user via the affiliated web site, wherein the first connection is first in time relative to the second connection;

receiving, with respect to the first connection, registration information from the user;

receiving, with respect to the first connection, an identifier associated with the affiliated web site; and

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storing the registration information and identifier received with respect to the first connection.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the identifier received during the first connection and the identifier received during the second connection each comprises a provider identifier associated with the affiliated web site and a personal identifier assigned to the user by the affiliated web site.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the registration information and identifier received with respect to the first connection is stored in a database, and wherein the step of allowing comprises steps of:

searching the database for an identifier that matches the identifier received with respect to the second connection; and

when a matching identifier is located, allowing the user access to the host web site.

15. (currently amended) A server comprising:

a means for receiving a first connection and a second connection to a client data terminal, wherein the first connection is first in time relative to the second connection;

a means for accessing the first server by the user after being authenticated;

a means for selecting from the first connection a computer input mark having a hyperlink to the second connection;

a means for receiving registration information during the first connection from a user of the client data terminal;

a means for receiving a personal and a provider identifier each associated with an affiliated server during the first connection, which affiliated server was visited by the user prior to the server receiving the first connection to the client data terminal;

a means for storing the received registration information and the personal identifier;

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a means for receiving the provider identifier during the second connection;
and

a means for authenticating the user during the second connection based on the personal and provider identifiers received during the second connection and allowing access to the second connection if both identifiers are authenticated to eliminate the need for the user to provide separate login information when connecting to the second connection via the hyperlink of the input mark and to eliminate the use of cookies during authentication and connection.

16. (currently amended) The server of claim 15, wherein the personal identifier is provided to the second ~~web-site~~ connection via a transparent login process after the user disconnects and then later reconnects to the second ~~web-site~~ connection.